Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~for reducing wear between a disc and a read/write head of a data storage device to improve a reliability of the data storage device by steps~~ comprising:

~~(a) detecting an idle condition of the data storage device;~~

~~(b)~~ raising a fly height of ~~the~~ a read/write head to a maximum setting;

moving the read/write head while substantially at the maximum fly height to a beginning position; and

~~(c)~~ lowering the read/write head to a minimum fly height and executing a ~~sweep~~ move cycle routine moving the read/write head away from the beginning position while remaining substantially at the minimum fly height~~; and~~

~~(d) lowering the read/write head to a data transfer fly height upon receipt of a seek command to improve the reliability of the data storage device.~~

2. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently amended) A data storage device comprising:

~~a basedeck supporting a spindle motor assembly;~~

~~a disc with a recording surface having an information track attached to the spindle motor assembly, the information track being for data storage;~~

a transducer and a storage medium positionable along two dimensions with respect

to each other in a data transfer relationship ~~head stack assembly supported by the basedeck and having a read/write head rotationally positionable adjacent the recording surface, the read/write head comprising a read element for reading data from the information track and a write element for writing data to the information track;~~ and

a control element executing a move ~~fly height adjusted sweep~~ cycle routine ~~provided~~ by steps for ~~reducing wear~~ associating a spatial separation between the ~~disc~~ transducer and the storage medium in relation to a direction of moving the transducer across the storage medium ~~read/write head of the data storage device~~.

10. (Currently amended) The data storage device of claim 9, in which the steps for ~~reducing wear between the disc and the read/write head of the data storage device comprising steps of:~~

~~(a) detecting an idle condition of the data storage device;~~

~~(b) raising a fly height of the read/write head to a maximum setting;~~

~~(c) executing a sweep cycle routine; and~~

~~(d) lowering the read/write head to a data transfer fly height upon receipt of a seek command to improve the reliability of the data storage device~~ associating are characterized by moving the transducer to a beginning position of a move cycle while at a fly height that is greater than a nominal fly height.

11. (Currently amended) The data storage device of claim 10, in which the ~~sweep cycle routine of executing step (c) is executed by steps comprising:~~

~~(c1) setting a sweep cycle timer;~~

~~(c2) moving the read/write to an inner information track of the disc;~~

~~(c3) lowering the fly height of the read/write head;~~

~~(c4) aligning the read/write head with an outer information track of the disc;~~

~~(c5) raising the fly height of the read/write head to the maximum setting; and~~

~~(c6) oscillating the read/write for a predetermined period of time~~ steps for associating are characterized by executing the move cycle with the transducer at a fly height that is less than the nominal fly height.

12. (Currently amended) The data storage device of claim 11, in which the ~~read/write head of aligning step (c4) is aligned with the outer information track of the disc by steps comprising:~~

~~(c4a) moving the read/write head from the inner information track to a first information between the inner information track and the outer information track;~~

~~(c4b) dwelling on the first information between the inner information track and the outer information track for a predetermined period of time;~~

~~(c4c) dislodging~~ debris from a recording surface of the disc;

~~(c4d) aligning the read/write head with a second information track between the inner information track and the outer information track;~~

~~(c4e) dwelling on the second information track between the inner information track and the outer information track for a predetermined period of time;~~

~~(c4f) dislodging debris from the recording surface of the disc; and~~

~~(c4g) repeating process steps (c4a) through (c4f) for each information track between the inner information track and the outer information track~~ steps for associating are characterized by the move cycle moving the transducer from an innermost portion to an outermost portion of the storage medium while at a fly height that is less than the nominal fly height.

13. (Currently amended) The data storage device of claim 12, in which the ~~first information track is adjacent the inner information track~~ steps for associating are characterized by the transducer dwelling at each of a plurality of data storage tracks during the move cycle.

14. (Currently amended) The data storage device of claim ~~12, in which the second information track is adjacent the first information track~~ 13 wherein the steps for associating are characterized by the transducer dwelling at a selected data storage track for less than one complete revolution of the data storage track during the move cycle.

15. (Currently amended) The data storage device of claim ~~12, in which the disc is rotated by a spindle motor assembly of the data storage device at a substantially constant rotational velocity, and in which the predetermined period of time for dwelling on each information track, between the inner information track and the outer information track of (c4g) is less than a time for the disc to rotate one revolution~~ 13 wherein the steps for associating are characterized by the transducer dwelling at a selected data storage track for at least one complete revolution of the data storage track during the move cycle.

16. (Currently amended) The data storage device of claim 12~~, in which the disc is rotated by a spindle motor assembly of the data storage device at a substantially constant rotational velocity, and in which the predetermined period of time for dwelling on each information track between the inner information track and the outer information track of (c4g) is at least a time for the disc to rotate one revolution~~ wherein the steps for associating are characterized by oscillating the transducer while at a fly height that is greater than the nominal fly height subsequent to completing the move cycle.

17. (Currently amended) The data storage device of claim ~~11 in which the read/write head of aligning step (c4) collects debris, and in which the predetermined period of time of oscillating step (c6) comprising a time for executing a sequence of short seeks to dislodge the debris collected on the read/write head~~ 12 wherein the steps for associating are characterized by moving the transducer to the nominal fly height subsequent to completing the move cycle.

18. (New) An apparatus comprising circuitry configured to spatially separate a transducer from a storage medium by a first separation that is greater than a nominal data transfer separation, to thereafter move the transducer adjacent a selected portion of the storage medium at the first separation, to thereafter lower the transducer to a second separation that is less than the nominal data transfer separation, and to thereafter move the transducer across the storage medium at the second separation.

19. (New) The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the circuitry is configured such that

the first separation is associated with a maximum operable data transfer separation.

20. (New) The apparatus of claim 19 wherein the circuitry is configured such that the second separation is associated with a minimum operable data transfer separation.

21. (New) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the circuitry is configured such that the second separation is substantially thirty percent greater than the minimum operable data transfer separation.

22. (New) The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the circuitry is configured such that the transducer seeks from an outer track to an inner track of a rotating disc data storage medium at the first separation.

23. (New) The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the circuitry is configured such that the transducer seeks from the inner track to an outer track of the rotating disc data storage medium at the second separation.

24. (New) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the circuitry is configured further to move the transducer from the second separation to the first separation subsequent to seeking to the outer track.

25. (New) The apparatus of claim 24 wherein the circuitry is configured further to oscillate the transducer at the first separation subsequent to seeking to the outer track.

26. (New) The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the circuitry is configured to oscillate the transducer by a series of short seeks.

27. (New) The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the circuitry is configured further to move the transducer from the second separation to the nominal separation subsequent to seeking to the outer track.